

Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

WALTER G. SMITH EDITOR
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EMBARRASSING IJICHI.

It is very doubtful that Admiral Ijichi's squadron will do more than call and coal. The strike-leaders, by saying that his second visit, which was promised long before the strike began, is now designed to give them aid and comfort and embarrass the authorities in dealing with the Japanese law-breakers, have made it difficult for the training squadron to return at all. Probably the need of coal will bring the two ships in, but the good-breeding of Admiral Ijichi will hurry him away just as that of any gentleman would whose presence as a guest in the house of a friend had led the servants to make a demonstration against his host. No one but an ignorant field hand could be made to believe that the Admiral, on his own initiative, would strain the relations of Japan with the United States to suit the purposes of men whom the Consul-General of his country has described to his department as irresponsible; least of all that the Japanese government would interfere with matters that are in process of adjudication in an American court and relating to which, if any Japanese subject has been wronged, there is ample remedy.

MONEY FROM THE IMPOVERISHED.

The claim that subscription money can be had from Japan to maintain the strike indefinitely is easily made, but a brief review of the financial state of the people of that country is likely to suggest doubts to the most sanguine. If one will take the trouble to read the article in the Review of Reviews for May on Japan's Financial Condition, by Adachi Kinosuke, editor of The Far East, he will acquaint himself with the astonishing fact that the taxation of the people amounts to thirty per cent. of their net incomes. Mr. Kinosuke gives all the details. The national debt has reached the enormous figure of \$1,120,565,000, at four, five and six per cent. To meet the interest a tax system has been devised which Mr. Kinosuke describes as "heartless but imperative"; one which must create the major portion of its revenue. The land tax is first. Before the Russian war the rate on land was 2½ per cent. of its assessed value. Now it is 17.5 per cent. for the best quality of land. The tax on liquor has risen to \$5 on forty gallons of beer and \$17.50 per forty gallons of liquor. The income tax, which is classified, ranges from 5 to 20.35 per cent. A man who receives an income of 300 yen a year (\$150) pays 30 yen to the State; while a man who gets 100,000 yen is taxed 20,350 yen. In the fiscal year of 1908-9 the income tax yielded \$18,785,757.

How is this aggregate exaction borne? Mr. Kinosuke answers as follows: The people of Japan are performing the financial miracle of giving up about 30 per cent. of their net income every day, without saying a word about it. In other words, the greatest asset of the Japanese Empire of today is the patriotism of her people. Within twenty-five years, perhaps, at the rate of conquest Western commercialism and the doctrine of individual rights are making among our people, we shall be as civilized as any other so-called Christian nation. As yet, however, the state to the imagination of the people of Japan is greater than all its gods. The glorification of the state is the Mecca of all our dreams. We take very seriously all matters connected with the state; so seriously, indeed, that we have no sense of humor about them. That is the reason why we caricature all of our eight million gods in the pleasantest of moods in the world, but would not for a moment permit any one to caricature His Majesty the Emperor. This also is the reason why we have no graft in our government finance. And that saves a lot of money for our country.

It may be urged that a people so patriotic and self-sacrificing would go a little further and provide amply for the maintenance of idle strikers here. Divided among big populations, a large enough subscription might not be felt by any giver. We should be loath to question this if the strike in any degree affected the prestige, or was sustained by the pride of the Japanese nation or called for service to the State; but it happens, in this case, that the Japanese Consul-General opposes the strike with the presumed acquiescence of his government and has officially described the leaders as irresponsible. This leaves the lever of patriotism without a fulcrum.

CANADA'S IMPORT TRADE.

Merchandise from the United States forms a steadily increasing share of the imports of Canada. In 1869 merchandise from the United States formed 34.03 per cent. of the imports of Canada; in 1879, 53.57 per cent.; in 1889, 45.86 per cent.; in 1899, 59.24 per cent.; and in 1909 (fiscal year ending March 31), 60.4 per cent. Meantime the share of her imports drawn from Great Britain has steadily declined, having been in 1869, 56.2 per cent.; in 1879, 39.34 per cent.; in 1889, 38.73 per cent.; in 1899, 24.72 per cent.; and in 1909, 23.69 per cent.

These figures are drawn from the Canadian official publications just received by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor. They represent the latest possible picture of Canada's trade, since her fiscal year now ends with the month of March, and the publications just received at the bureau cover the month of March, 1909, and the fiscal year ending that month.

The result of the compulsory voting law in Spain brought the masses to the municipal polls with results that must have been startling to the government. Between eighty and ninety per cent. of the electorate voted, choosing 481 Republicans, Liberals and Democrats and over a hundred Radicals. With a Conservative ministry in power, but 253 Conservatives were chosen. Madrid went Republican by a large majority over all. Fifteen anti-Monarchists were elected to seven Conservatives. A similar result was had in Valladolid, La Coruna, and Cordoba. Now that the Republicans have tabulated their strength and realized its significance, they are likely to make a still better showing at future elections.

The recurrence of cholera in St. Petersburg is what might have been expected. Of all the great cities of Europe, the Russian capital has the largest area of insanitary dwellings. Its common people are infinitely dirty, their food is rarely good and their water supply is still measurably drawn from wells. What St. Petersburg needs is modern sanitary discipline such as American energy gave to Havana, Santiago, Manila and New Orleans; British energy to Singapore, Hongkong and various cities of India; and Japanese energy to the cities of the Chrysanthemum Empire. At present the Russians mainly depend on ikons and prayers in the churches.

If the Democrats should get control, they will have as perfect a machine as their intelligent leaders can make. In the cause of good government, its better element will have to fight just the same as the Republicans, to keep the politicians and the grafters down.—Star.

And the Advertiser would encourage them in that fight as it does independent Republicans. An ideal state would be for both parties to put the ban on their rascals and incompetents and nominate their best men. Then the taxpayers would be well served whichever side won.

It is Judge Woodruff. The long fight has ended with less acerbity here than was to have been expected. Probably the absorption of people in the strike accounts for it, but if the matter had come up in dull times, with the south wind blowing, there is no telling what a Donnybrook fair there would have been.

The private opinion of the French government of the meeting between the Kaiser and the Czar would be worth hearing, if one were not sensitive to Gallie profanity.

There have been ten narrow escapes for automobiles in this city to each one of many accidents—and all due to the sheer recklessness of chauffeurs.

It looks like a new idea in law for the defendants in criminal cases to replevin evidence in the hands of the prosecution.

Shall we have to make a crusade for cobblestone pavements in Honolulu as the only way to meet the automobile crisis?

The need of so many arrests in Constantinople goes to show that Uncle Abdul Hamid has a few friends left.

Letters From the People

Editor Advertiser: You are for boosting Hawaii. Next month the biggest body of representative business men from all over the states will assemble in Los Angeles. The Elks convention there will attract thousands of others, one of these gatherings do more good for to advertise the country than a hundred expositions.

Ship the boys some pineapples, bananas, poi, etc. Let Honolulu lodge start a campaign for convention honors. These good fellows will cross deserts of sand and oceans of water, all they want is a guarantee—that you will meet them at the dock. They will make the fun—get together fellows and shout for your great, great little island—pull and pull all together.

Sincerely,
J. F. Riley.
P.S.—A new arrival who is going to stay.
J.F.R.

PHASES OF THE STRIKE.

Editor Advertiser: I will say in the first place, that I believe in high wages, and that my heart goes out in sympathy to the poor, and to the down-trodden portion of humanity.

But will say, that it does not strike me that these striking Japanese are in a bad way. On the contrary when we consider their mode of life, and the small cost of their living and boarding expenses, we consider that they are among the most fortunate laborers in the world.

For instance, it is well known, that they can, and do save more money in a few years, then it's possible for any other laborers to save in any other country in the world in a lifetime. Indeed, I have known some of these men to save in a few years enough money to last them almost a lifetime in Japan. And many that I have known have gone back and bought a small rice farm or rice patches, and where they have no doubt lived in comfort all the rest of their lives.

And where, I would like to ask can field, or farm laborers do this in any other country? Nor are they paid such low wages as they would like to make it appear, when compared with other countries.

For instance, they complain of small wages, which in reality when everything is considered, such as free firewood, free room, or house rent and free medical attendance, can not be less than \$25.00 per month and is often more. This, however, may not appear much to them but when we consider, that not so long ago, they were working contentedly for little more than half this amount it seems a good deal. I will say that it seems a little strange to me, that these Japanese should make such a kick at \$25.00 per month when I have known farm laborers in England to get but \$25.00 and board per year.

And it's doubtful if any farm laborer today in England is getting anything like as much wages as these men or Japanese. And it's also well known that the laborers of all most every other country are getting very much less than the laborers of England.

Very truly,
GEORGE OSBORNE.
Honolulu, June 16, 1909.

On his arrival in Seattle, General James Smith was made acquainted with the fact that there was a strong desire on the part of the people of San Francisco that he would accept the nomination for the office of Mayor. He replied that he was not a candidate for the mayoralty or any other office, as he had resigned from the governorship of the Philippines in order to get out of public life.

The S. S. Montefiore is the same one that carried fifteen hundred Hindus to Vancouver a few years ago and whose appearance nearly precipitated a riot. There were not accommodations enough to supply the passengers and public halls were thrown open and transformed into sleeping rooms.

The New Porto Rico bill passed by the House will restrict the powers possessed by the island government, inasmuch as it provides that all reports of an official character shall be made direct to an executive department of the government of the United States to be designated by the President.

NEW Neckwear

We have just received an express shipment of the newest in Ladies' Neckwear, containing

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See Display

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